

IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of September 25, 2007

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Fishing reports will be issued every other week into the fall. For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 20: River conditions are forecasted to stay fairly stable over the next week. River stage at Lock and Dam 15 is 4.79 feet, Lock and Dam 16 is 4.01 feet, Muscatine is 6.31 feet, Lock Dam 17 is 4.61 feet, and Lock and Dam 18 is 2.16 feet. Water temperature throughout the pools is around 72 degrees.

Channel catfish are being caught throughout the pools along the main channel on stink baits and chicken liver.

Crappies are being caught along the **Harbor Road** and in **Sunset Marina** in Pool 16 on minnows. There are also reports of crappies being caught in **Big Timber** and at **Lake Odessa** in Pool 17. Some crappies are also being caught in the **Huron Island** complex and **New Boston Bay** area of Pool 18.

A few walleyes and saugers are being caught around **Credit Island** (Pool 16).

Bluegills are being caught in the **Big Timber** backwater of Pool 17, and around **Credit Island** in Pool 16.

White bass are being caught in **Sylvan Slough** (Pool 16).

There are also reports of bullheads being caught in **Lake Odessa** (Pool 17).

Lake Darling (Washington): Catfishing is fair around the rocks for catfish feeding on crayfish and small bluegills. The crappies have not moved in for the fall feed....look for them to move in as the water cools.

Lake Geode (Henry): The road at Geode from the beach turn off by the campground all the way to the turn off at the dam on Hwy. J-20 will be closed through October 1 at the earliest and mid-October at the latest. Both boat ramps and the beach area will be closed off during this time. The only access points on the lake will be shore fishing from the dam/spillway areas, shelter 3 and shelter 4 on the south end of the lake.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing remains good, with the fish in 10 to 13 feet of water. Catfishing is very good with the catfish working the rip rap and around the fish cleaning stations.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Look to the Horseshoe Bend and Burris Ditch areas to catch some very nice crappies as they start schooling up to make the fall migration to the over wintering areas.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Walleyes have been hitting crankbaits trolled along drop-offs and underwater islands. Crappies have been found around submerged structure and have been biting on a jig tipped with a minnow.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Crappies and walleyes have been hitting on minnows and crankbaits in the evenings. Bluegills have been biting on small jigs tipped with a minnow or chunk of night crawler.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting on spinner baits and other artificial presentations around the underwater habitat. Bluegills and crappies have been biting on jigs tipped with a minnow or night crawler. Anglers having the best success have been drifting in the deeper parts of the lake.

Lake Keomah (Mahaska): Largemouth bass have been hitting on crankbaits and spinner baits. Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Crappies are still holding in the brush piles. Fish in and around the brush with small jigs or minnows and expect quite a few small to average sized fish with the occasional larger one.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): White bass are hitting if you can find the schools. Troll small shad colored crankbaits to cover water and find the aggressive fish. A few anglers are picking up some nice sized crappies around brush. Use a vertical approach with jigs or minnows.

Kent Lake (Johnson): Bluegills, channel catfish, and largemouth bass are being caught. Try around the brush piles with small worms or wax worms for the bluegills. Use night crawlers or liver for the catfish. Crankbaits and soft plastics have been producing best for bass around wood and on the dam.

Lake Iowa (Iowa): Anglers are picking up some catfish and largemouth bass. The catfish are being taken mostly on stink bait and night crawlers, while the largemouth can be caught on a variety of artificial lures.

Skunk River (Washington and Henry): Although water levels are still above normal for this time of year, the river has remained stable for a couple of weeks now. Catfishing has been fairly good as the fish start on their fall feeding.

Iowa River (Louisa): The River has dropped about eight inches this last week but it does not seem to have affected the catfishing much. The catfishing remains fair to good if you can keep your bait away from the little ones. The young of the year catfish have reached that size (5 inches) where they get really good at stealing bait.

Cedar River (Linn): Some anglers are picking up a few flathead catfish. Most of the fish caught have been just below the dams. A variety of baits have been working.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River 9 to 15: Water levels on the Mississippi River have been stable to slowly rising. Water levels to begin the last week of September were 7.59 feet at McGregor, 7.97 at Dubuque, 4.95 feet at Bellevue, and 9.41 feet at Camanche. Water temperature is 71 degrees.

Walleye and sauger fishing is fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15**. In **Pool 9**, try trolling a 3-way rig with live bait in Minnesota Slough. In **Pool 10**, fish the tailwaters of Lock 9 using *zips* and *one-eyes*. In **Pools 12 to 15**, fish along the wing dams using crankbaits and three-way rigs tipped with a leech or worm. Fishing for both these species will improve as water temperature continues to cool.

Bluegill and crappie fishing has been good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Look for panfish in brush piles and snags in the sloughs and backwaters with flowing water.

Largemouth bass fishing is good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Fish around snags in backwater areas such as Harpers Slough (**Pool 10**) or Cassville Slough (**Pool 11**). In

Pools 12 to 15, largemouth and smallmouth bass were biting well on crankbaits fished along rocky shorelines, tailwater areas and wing dams with current.

White bass are feeding around exposed wing dams in **Pools 9 to 11**. Anglers are having the best success fishing with jigs.

Fishing for channel catfish and freshwater drum is good to excellent in **Pools 9 to 15**. For both species, use night crawlers and try fishing in areas with current around fallen trees or above the wing dams.

Northern pike fishing is fair in **Pools 12 to 15**. Pike concentrate in areas with cool water influx such as creek mouths and springs.

Cedar River (Mitchell, Floyd and Chickasaw): Good numbers of crappie are being caught below the dam at Charles City. The preferred lure has been 2-inch twister tails. Walleye fishing is fair in the deeper pools using jigs tipped with a minnow. Some are being caught on crankbaits as well. Smallmouth bass fishing is good throughout the river, but the fish are not concentrated in specific areas.

Cedar (Bremer and Black Hawk) and **Shell Rock** (Butler and Bremer) **rivers**: Walleye and smallmouth bass are biting on crankbaits and jigs tipped with a minnow or night crawler. Fishing is fair for channel catfish using night crawlers or cut baits.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Smallmouth bass fishing is good using crankbaits and jigs. Walleye are also hitting on crankbaits and jigs tipped with a night crawler or minnow. Catfishing is fair.

Turkey River (Clayton): Smallmouth bass fishing is excellent throughout the river. Smallies are biting on a variety of lures and live baits. Walleye can be caught in the deeper pools with slow-moving artificial lures.

Upper Iowa River (Winneshiek and Allamakee): Smallmouth bass fishing is excellent throughout the river for medium-size and larger fish. They are biting on everything from crankbaits to twister tails in the pool and riffle areas. Walleye fishing has been just as good using crankbaits, Shad Raps and white twister tails in the deeper pools. Crawdad imitations fished near woody structure has also been working exceptionally well. Below the lower dam, black and white twister tails on a ¼ ounce jig head is working well.

Wapsipinicon River (Buchanan): Walleye and smallmouth bass are biting. Use crankbaits or jigs tipped with a minnow or night crawler for best success. Some anglers are catching channel catfish on cut baits and night crawlers.

Yellow River (Allamakee): Smallmouth bass and trout fishing is good. The water level has dropped quite a bit and should continue to stabilize with the absence of heavy rains.

Black Hawk County Area Lakes: Fishing is good for largemouth bass using crankbaits and spinner baits.

Casey Lake (Tama): Largemouth bass are hitting crankbaits and spinner baits.

Lake Delhi (Delaware): Crappie fishing is good to excellent using jigs tipped with a minnow or minnows fished under a slip bobber. Some bluegills and largemouth bass are also being caught on minnows.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Channel catfishing has slowed, but a few are still being caught on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Bluegill fishing is fair, but picking up. Try using smaller gear when fishing mid-day to hook the finicky ones. People are

starting to catch good numbers of crappie using jigs tipped with a minnow. There are reports of quality largemouth bass being caught with a variety of artificial lures as well.

Lake Meyer (Winneshiek): Some of the larger, 7 to 9 ½-inch crappies are moving into the brush piles on the south and west sides of the lake. They are being caught with small jigs under a bobber. Try throwing the rig a few feet past the snags and reeling in toward them. This works really well if the wind is blowing into the snags. Some are being caught with artificial jointed minnows trolled out in the deeper water. Bluegill fishing is good for medium-sized fish on night crawlers or angle worms. Largemouth fishing has slowed, but there have been some fish caught on artificial worms. Channel catfish fishing has slowed, but a few are still being caught in the afternoon on the east cove of the lake.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Largemouth bass fishing is good in the early morning and late evening hours. Use slower-moving artificial lures worked along structure. Bluegill fishing is fair using wax worms or night crawlers on a very small hook under a bobber. Catfishing has slowed, but there is an excellent population of channel catfish in this lake. A good number of them are in the trophy-sized range.

Trout fishing and stream conditions are excellent. The last week of September marks the end to the announced trout stockings; however, weekly stockings on the trout streams continue through the month of October. The fall is a beautiful time of the year to fish the coldwater streams of northeast Iowa.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Largemouth bass fishing is fair on the North Grade. Walleye fishing is fair trolling crankbaits. The north end has produced a few fish.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): Muskie fishing is good casting and trolling. Smallmouth bass fishing is good on shallow rocks using jigs and plastics. Yellow perch fishing is good fishing weed beds in Smith's, the North Bay and Emerson Bay. Bluegill fishing is good in many areas of the lake. Small jigs tipped with garden worms are excellent baits. Find standing vegetation.

East Okoboji (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is starting to pick up casting near bridges. White bass fishing is good near bridge areas in the evening.

Little Spirit (Dickinson): Fishing is excellent for panfish on the south end of the lake.

Silver Lake (Clay): Fishing is good for 8 to 10-inch bullheads using night crawlers.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass are hitting live bait or cut bait all around the lake. Reefs or shorelines with wave action provide good action. The deep water north and west of the Island is also producing good numbers of yellow bass. Yellows in the 7 to 9 inch range are being caught, along with a few large yellows. Walleye fishing is good on the rock reefs using a jig and night crawler or trolling crankbaits around the reefs and rushes. White bass along with a few perch are being caught while fishing for yellow bass.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Icaria (Adams): Several channel catfish are being caught in 3 to 5 feet of water on night crawlers or dip baits. Mid-sized walleyes can be caught by trolling across the rock mounds or rock shoreline areas.

Little River (Decatur): Fishing for channel catfish is fair at the upper end of the lake.

Green Valley (Union): Channel catfish is fair on stink bait or night crawlers in the shallows.

Three Mile (Union): A few walleye can be caught from the mounds or the creek channel. Some crappies have been caught from the flooded trees in the coves on jigs or minnows.

Three Fires (Taylor): Some nice channel catfish can be caught on stink baits. Bluegill and crappie can be caught from the flooded trees or edges of the fish mounds.

Twelve Mile (Union): Several mid-sized walleye and largemouth bass are being caught from the mounds and steep rock shoreline areas. Some nice sized bluegills can be caught from the fish mounds using night crawlers.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Several nice channel catfish can be caught on night crawlers or in 3 to 5 feet of water. Some nice crappies can be caught from the flooded trees on minnows.

Farm Ponds: Channel catfish and largemouth bass fishing is good.

Contact Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes.

Big Creek (Polk): Crappie fishing continues to be consistent. The most successful anglers are drifting out in the main lake. Try small pumpkinseed jigs or bait in 12 to 18 feet of water. Small bass are being caught up in the shallows on plastics.

Ahquabi (Warren): Bass fishing is good on just about anything from small crankbaits to plastic worms. Catfishing is fair on stink bait and liver.

Hickory Grove (Story): Crappie and bluegill fishing is hit or miss right now. Small jigs with bait under a bobber around brush or the wind blown shore has been producing the most consistent action. Some smaller largemouth bass are being caught on artificial lures. Catfishing is decent on liver in the evenings.

Easter Lake (Polk): Walleye and bass fishing continues to be slow. Small bluegills are being caught on jig and worm combinations under a bobber. The channel catfish bite is picking up with most success coming on night crawlers and liver.

Don Williams (Boone): Bluegills are being caught on jigs and worms. A few crappies are also being caught. Channel catfish are biting on liver and worms. Bass fishing is fair on spinner baits and plastics.

Rock Creek (Jasper): Catfishing is fair on cut bait and liver. Crappies are running a little small, but they are being caught in deeper water with jig and minnow combinations. Walleye fishing has been pretty slow lately as well as the bass fishing. Recent rains have made the water pretty murky.

Contact: Ben Dodd (515)432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes

Orient (Adair): Channel catfish are fair during the day on prepared baits. Bluegills are fair using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass is fair using a slow retrieve and plastic worms in the evenings.

Nodaway (Adair): Bluegill and crappie are slow, but a few are being caught around brush piles. Channel catfish is fair using liver in the evenings.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair with fish being caught around brush piles or drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass are being caught using plastic baits and spinner baits. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using liver.

Morman Trail (Adair): Bluegills are fair on south and west side of lake in brush piles. Channel catfish is fair using liver around jetties and in the shallow bays in the evening. Largemouth bass can be caught on plastic baits.

Littlefield (Audubon): Crappie fishing is slow, but a few are being caught drifting a jig and minnow. Bluegills are slow casting a small jig tipped with night crawlers. Channel catfish has been fair in shallow bays and corners of the dam using stink bait.

Anita (Cass): Anglers are catching 7 to 8-inch bluegill using jigs from shore and around the jetties. Channel catfish, 2 to 6 pounds, are being caught on night crawlers and blood bait. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair for fish up to 18 inches. Crankbaits and jigs have been used around brush piles and rock piles.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Crappie fishing is slow. Channel catfish is fair using dip baits with a red worm.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Channel catfish is fair drifting cut bait or shrimp. A few wipers are being caught east side of lake throwing twister tails.

Arrowhead (Pottawattamie): Bluegills are slow using jigs with night crawlers. Fish are 7 to 8 inches. Channel catfish are fair using liver and prepared bait close to shore around jetties.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is slow for crappies and bluegills drifting jigs tipped with minnows or night crawlers. Channel catfish is slow fishing shallow bays with liver. A few largemouth bass are being caught using crawdad-colored lures.

Willow (Harrison): Bluegill fishing is slow with a few fish being caught on jigs tipped with night crawlers. Fishing has been fair for 12 to 14-inch bass on plastic worms and crankbaits.

Schaben (Harrison): Bluegills are fair using small jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass are also being caught on night crawlers and plastic baits.

Middle Raccoon River (Guthrie): The “No Kill” stretch below Lenon Mills is fair for smallmouth bass using 1/32 ounce jigs tipped with a night crawler. Bluegill fishing has been good using jigs tipped with night crawlers.

Farm Ponds: Farm ponds are good for largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. Be sure to ask permission from the landowner first.

Contact: Bryan Hayes (712)769-2587 for information on the above area lakes.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.